

# Theater Performance Staffing

Ensuring that an appropriately prepared and endorsed teacher is assigned to teach in Michigan's classrooms is critical to student achievement. The State Board of Education (SBE) has [approved standards](#) for preparing teachers in each endorsement area. Currently there are no standards for the preparation of a theater teacher. Therefore a specific endorsement is not needed to teach a theater course.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and SBE defined policy ([Michigan's Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers](#), December 6, 2005) teachers of core academic subject areas must meet the Highly Qualified (HQ) teacher requirements. Theater is specifically listed as a core academic subject area in the SBE definition. While school districts are free to assign any teacher who provides evidence of professional development or experience related to these courses AND is certified for the grade range at which these courses are offered, the [HQ requirements](#) **do apply**.

For the purpose of certification, the following placements would be appropriate:

- hold an elementary certificate for K-8 placements; or
- hold a secondary certificate for 6-12 placements.

A certified English (BA) endorsed teacher assigned to a theater course where the production was based upon a work of literature (e.g., *Les Misérables*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pygmalion*) could be assigned within their BA endorsement and be considered HQ by whatever method they demonstrated English content knowledge (major, test, etc.).

A certified Music Education (JX/JQ) endorsed teacher assigned to a theater course where the production was focused on a music-based script (e.g., the works of Gilbert & Sullivan or Roger & Hammerstein) could be assigned within their JX/JQ endorsement and be considered HQ by whatever method they demonstrated major content knowledge (major, test, etc.).

A teacher endorsed in other subject areas might also demonstrate HQ status in a variety of ways, including:

- major or 30 semester credit hours in [areas of theater](#); or
- passage of the Speech (BD) [Michigan Test for Teacher Certification](#); or

- completion of a portfolio for theater based upon a district established HQ portfolio model.

Additional information regarding appropriate placement of teachers can be found in the [Quick Reference: Courses That Can Be Taught](#) document.